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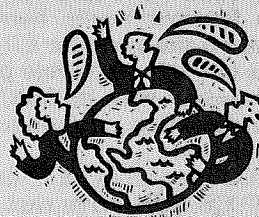


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NEW ON CD-ROM

With new multimedia

BY MIKE LANGBERG
Mercury News Staff Writer

So you've just gotten a CD-ROM drive for your IBM-compatible personal computer and you're set for years of cutting-edge multimedia entertainment.

Not so fast, says the Multimedia PC Marketing Council.

The council, which sets standards for multimedia hardware, has raised the mark for CD-ROMs linked to IBM-compatible personal computers with its MPC Level 2 specification, announced in May.

MPC2 requires a "double-speed" CD-ROM drive that transfers data at 300 kilobytes per second and a 16-bit sound card — standards that are both double the previous MPC1 standard announced in early 1990.

Speeding up the action

Moving to MPC2 will allow developers of CD-ROM titles to speed up the action, making it easier, for example, to offer full-motion video and reduce the

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will probably release only MPC2 titles.

By next summer, the cost of upgrading to MPC2 will probably drop below \$500.

Get the upgrade

But anyone looking to jump on the CD-ROM bandwagon today should probably spend \$600 to \$900 for an MPC2 upgrade kit — containing the faster CD-ROM drive and bigger sound card — rather than saving a few hundred dollars by purchasing an MPC1 kit.

Computer Inc.